

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and following remarks.

By the foregoing amendment, claims 1, 14, 17 and 20 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Claims 2, 3 and 9 have been previously amended. Thus, claims 1, 4-8 and 10-20 are currently pending in the application and subject to examination.

In the Office Action mailed November 22, 2006, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 4-8, 10-13 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,452,004 to Roberts, (hereinafter, "Roberts"). Claims 14-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Roberts in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,827,348 to Ernest et al. (hereinafter, "Ernest"); and claims 17-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Roberts in view of Ernest and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,382,974 to Soeda et al. (hereinafter, "Soeda"). It is noted that claims 1, 14, 17 and 20 have been amended. To the extent that the rejections remain applicable to the claims currently pending, the Applicant hereby traverses the rejections, as follows.

Roberts discloses a random access imaging device. To allow random access, Roberts provides a row decoder and a column decoder. Random access devices scan images row-by-row; however, a circuit of a random access device is more complicated than that of an imaging device that does not have a random access function.

On page 3 of the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner points out col. 1, lines 15-17, and col. 13, lines 5-8 of Roberts. However, at col. 1, lines 15-17, Roberts

discloses only that pixels may be scanned row-by-row. At col. 13, lines 5-7, Roberts discloses only that pixels of the array may be sequentially scanned. Roberts does not disclose or suggest at least the combination of a row shift circuit including a row read scan circuit capable of supplying a read signal to said plurality of row selection signal lines sequentially, and a reset scan circuit capable of supplying a reset signal to said plurality of reset signal lines sequentially, the row shift circuit having no random access function, as recited in independent claims 1, 14 and 20, as amended.

Similarly, neither Ernest nor Soeda discloses or suggests at least the combination of a row shift circuit including a row read scan circuit capable of supplying a read signal to said plurality of row selection signal lines sequentially, and a reset scan circuit capable of supplying a reset signal to said plurality of reset signal lines sequentially, the row shift circuit having no random access function, as recited in independent claims 1, 14 and 20, as amended.

For at least these reasons, the Applicant submits that claims 1, 14 and 20, as amended, are allowable over the applied art of record. As amended claims 1 and 14 are allowable, the Applicant submits that claims 4-8 and 10-19, which depend from allowable claims 1 and 14, respectively, are likewise allowable over the applied art of record.

CONCLUSION

For all of the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the claims now pending patentability distinguish the present invention from the cited references. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and an issuance of a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner determine that any further action is necessary to place this application into better form, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned representative at the number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicant hereby petitions for an appropriate extension of time. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 01-2300, referencing docket number **107317-00026**.

Respectfully submitted,


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